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Cicerone and Souvenir Series.

ALBERT'S
CONEY ISLAND.

A

Compendium of Useful Information

AND

A COMPLETE DESCRIPTIVE

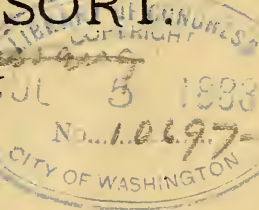
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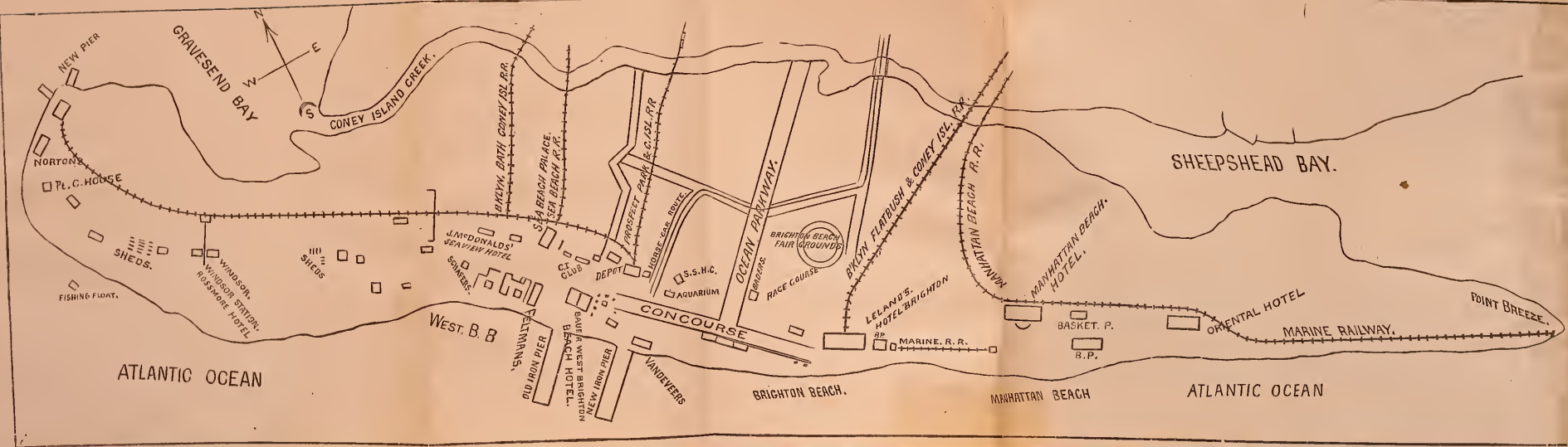
BY WHICH STRANGERS AND OTHERS CAN VISIT
UNDERSTANDINGLY, ALL POINTS OF INTEREST
AT THE GREAT POPULAR

SUMMER RESORT

By *Chas. A. Illingworth*
NEW YORK.

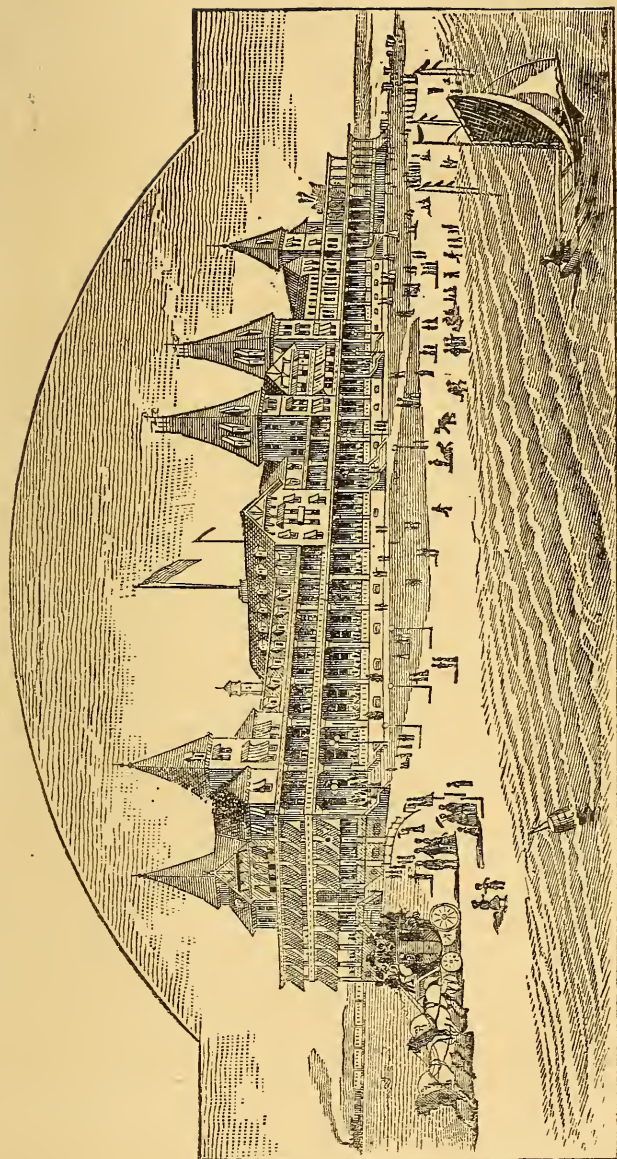
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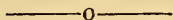
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LELAND'S HOTEL BRIGHTON.



INTRODUCTORY.



LONG ISLAND, who's "sea-girt shore" stretches for one hundred miles along the Atlantic coast, has within the last decade, come into prominence as the great watering district, of the American Continent ; and probably no territory from Baffin Bay to Terra del Fuego, presents attributes for the establishment of summer resorts, to so great a degree as this ISLAND where-of we speak. From the village of Bath to Montauk Point, the southern shore is almost one unbroken sandy beach, where the bather can plunge in the surf, and frolic among the breakers. to his heart's content ; while in the many beautiful inlets and bays, on the northern side, the more timid can lave in placid waters, and dip in the salt sea, without the many misgivings awakened by the roar and foam, of the billowy Atlantic.

To wade upon the silvery sands at Orient, to stroll along the pebbly strands of Peconic Bay, or meander amid the boulders and cliffs of Montauk, and listen to the weird music of the wild sea waves is delightful beyond measure ; to ramble throughout the diversified landscapes. and picturesque scenery of the interior, its pastoral fields, its beautiful villas, its hills and dales, its dells and dingles, its rills and rivulets ; to loiter by its babbling brooks, and hearken to the murmurings of their rippling waters, to cull the flowers that blossom

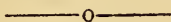
on their borders, to angle on their shingly bottoms, while the melodies of woodland song birds are warbled in your ear, is enchantment to the sentimentalist ; a relaxation from the cares, toil, struggles, and turmoil of city life, nowhere to be more completely enjoyed, than on this ISLAND by the sea. Yachting, boating, fishing, shooting, and driving can be most profitably indulged in, by those whose tendencies carry them to this line of sport.

- Geographically considered, Long Island has many advantages ; its close proximity to the great Metropolis, makes it accessible from all the important centres, of the eastern and middle states ; the same highways that bring the countless numbers to New York City, being the direct routes to Long Island. Here, also, nature has been most bounteous in bestowing her favors ; the low temperature, the salubrious air, the invigorating sea breeze, the piscatorial wealth, the delicious bivalves, the unexcelled garden products, and the abundance of pure crystalline water, gives health, comfort and recreation, to the summer sojourner.

As the Island upon which our little volume treats, is a portion of Long Island (an island within an island,) we thought it would not be amiss to make the above allusions ; from observations made during many reconnoiters from Bath to Montauk, we feel all we say to be true ; and for the benefit of the Metropolitan it cannot be said too often.

Space not permitting us to extend this theme further, we shall proceed with our real task ; and try to render our readers, an intelligent description of the popular summer resort of the western world, CONEY ISLAND.

CONEY ISLAND:



RETROSPECTIVE.

On the south-western extremity of Long Island, where the waters of the noble Hudson flow through the Lower New York Bay, to join the Ocean, is situated this now celebrated resort, the “ultima thule” of the pleasure seekers expectations.

Beginning at Gravesend Bay, a cove designated on the map by that title, it presents for five miles in an easterly direction, a gradual sloping beach, which to the whilom New Yorker, was the ideal spot to enjoy the caresses of the old Atlantic ; from the eastern end of the Island,—what was known to the writer as Pelican Beach, —now Manhattan Beach—and where within his recollection, and he is not so very old either, snipe, plover, and other game were plentiful,—projects a narrow point of sand, forming a bay famous as a fishing place, called Sheepshead Bay after the delicious fish of that name, which in remote ages, was supposed to have harbored within its borders ; from Sheepshead Bay in a westerly direction runs Coney Island Creek, to Gravesend Bay, thus making the circuit of the Island, a barren sandy waste, metamorphosed by capital and enterprise, into an island of enchantment, so far as enchantment is compatible with business principles.

In former years the attractions that lured visitors to the island, consisted of a sail down the bay in a dilapidated steamer, a dash in the surf, a promenade upon the sands, a carousal, the exhilarating sea breeze, and a good fish or clam dinner at the hostleries, if the unpretending sheds, where good fish and bad whiskey were dispensed, could be dignified by such a title ; these places were few in number and situated towards the west end ; the entertainment they afforded was not calculated to please the fastidious taste, the dainty found no morsel to their liking, and the elite, when they sought the pleasures of the Island, enjoyed them sub rosa. Wyckoff, Van Sicklen, Felter and Rodger, were the famous publicans of the time ; Wyckoff was admitted to be pioneer, but it was a matter of contention which was "King of Coney Island," they all reigned by turns, t'is believed, although history has neglected to chronicle the realm in this regard.

During midsummer, when old Sol tormented the busy denizens of the city with his unremitting rays, as many as a thousand persons have at one time, here, sought the cool comfort of the sea side ; but generally the excursionists numbered much less. An impromptu dance at the hotels to the music of the fiddle, was the Terpsichorean feature ; and a stray trio of Ethiopian minstrels with banjo, bones and tambourine, or an itinerant piper, harpist or violinist, furnished the orchestral display.

Adjacent to the hotels were rows of bathing houses—looking like rickety sentry boxes—for the accommodation of bathers, to be hired including towel and bathing clothes, for two shillings for each person.

During the summer afternoons life and merriment prevailed, sometimes verging into debauchery ; the bar rooms were well patronized, and sports and buffoonery incidental thereto carried on ; occasionally a fracas occurred between those of diverse opinions and combative instincts, but being generally confined to the "Buffer" element, in and around the bar rooms, seldom marred the pleasures of the orderly classes ; with the departure of the evening boat, the Island became comparatively desolate ; except from the hilarity of bathing parties, the orgies of drunken brawlers , and nocturnal poker players, the night was dismal enough.

From a point in the town of Gravesend, adjacent to where is now located the Prospect Park Fair Grounds, ran the Shell Road ; the popular drive to Coney Island, and for years the only approach to the frequented portion of the beach, available for vehicles ; this road was reached from the city by two avenues, namely : the Fort Hamilton Road, and the Flatbush Turnpike ; equally pleasant routes : the former presenting a full view of New York Bay, and the latter running through a fertile district abounding in quaint old homesteads, neat cottages, and well planted gardens : by the way of Fort Hamilton, we passed through State Lane—in the town of New Utrecht,—by the old stone church (still standing,) at the junction of the Bath and New Utrecht roads, to the Kings Highway, thence to the "Old Shell Road : " by the Turnpike, we passed over Prospect Hill, paid toll at Valley Grove, rode through the villages of Flatbush and Flatlands, through the town of Gravesend to Shell Road ; and down Shell Road, over the bridge at Coney Island Creek, to the Beach.

The Fort Hamilton Road, was the choice of New Yorkers, the Turnpike, of Brooklynites, though the faces of many old time sports from both cities, since gone "over to the majority," were familiar on both roads; so too, like the many kindly spirits that were wont to enliven the scenes with their jocund presence, has the glory of the old roads departed, and where once the fleet trotter coursed over graveled road-beds, the rumble of the dray, and the thud of the truck, is heard on heavy pavements; and even the "Old Shell Road" echoes the snort of the "Iron Horse."

In more recent years Coney Island Road was opened and travel to the beach deserted the old for the new road, which became the popular drive to the shore; and so remained until about the year 1858, when it was given over to the Horse Railroad, (still in operation;) during the later years of its popularity, it became notorious for the number of vile houses that offered inducements of an immoral character, to the thoughtless and the vicious; shunned by the respectable, and obstructed by the rail-road, it soon came to disuse, save by that class who were not over particular in their pleasures; on the completion of the boulevard known as the Ocean Park Way, (of which we shall speak here-after,) Coney Island Road passed from existence as a drive.

For several years prior to 1875, the Island was in disrepute, as it was to a great extent, the rendezvous of roughs and rowdies; disorder, gambling, drinking and lewdness, were the prevailing characteristics; the Sweat Cloth, Roulette and Monte, were operated openly upon the beach, without fear of interference from the authorities, as there seemed to be no authority to interfere;

Thimble Rigging, the Patent Safe Game, and other kindred swindles, were played upon the credulous and unsophisticated, whom chance appeared to place at the mercy of the human vultures, who thronged the beach in quest of prey : but with the year above mentioned a new era dawned upon this favored place ; a number of enterprising Gentlemen and Capitalists, secured control of the eastern end,—or Manhattan Beach,—with a view to the improvement thereof ; and the erection of the mammoth caravansery, that was opened to the public in 1877.

The plan for the development of Manhattan Beach, embraced the building of a rail-road connecting New York City, with that place and so quietly and unostentatiously was these plans matured, that the hotel and railway with their appurtenances were completed before the general public was aware, that even, the construction of so important an undertaking was contemplated. Minerva like, it came into existence “all armed and ready for the fray,” if we may be permitted to use that phrase to express the friendly contact, that took place during the opening season, between the thousands of visitors and projectors of the enterprise.

The success at Manhattan Beach gave an impetus to other sections of the Island, other rail-road facilities were constructed, spacious hotels and minor places of amusement sprung up in all directions ; excellent police protection was inaugurated, the rowdy element was forced to succumb to law and order, and that prosperity unexampled in the history of watering places was begun, that has made “Coney Island,” as familiar as a house-hold word, in every portion of the land.

DESCRIPTIVE.

Ten miles from the City Hall in New York City, in a southerly direction, is situated Coney Island; it is five miles in length, and varies in width, from a few feet to nearly a mile, the greatest width being at the central part and the narrowest being the extreme eastern end; it is bounded on the north by Coney Island Creek, on the south by the Atlantic Ocean, on the west by Gravesend Bay, and on the east by Sheepshead Bay; it is in the Township of Gravesend, County of Kings, State of New York.

The Island in its natural condition was of sandy soil entirely void of vegetation, as it is at the present time, with the exception of the floral displays at the hotels, for which purpose a subsoil was created, by transporting loam from the interior, and arranging the same into the beautiful flower beds that relieves the eye, and perfumes the air.

The Island is now divided into localities, each possessing some particular feature to engross the attention, and augment the pleasures of the visitor; these localities are designated and known as Nortons Point, West End, West Brighton, Brighton Beach, and Manhattan Beach; Nortons Point and West End, being that stretch of about a mile, lying at the western extreme, West Brighton that adjoining West End eastward, and running to the Concourse, Brighton Beach that commencing at the Concourse, and continuing to Manhattan Beach, which for two miles occupies the eastern division. The attractions of these several places are varied, each presenting characteristics of their own, of which

we shall make special mention further on.

It is estimated that at least, 40,000 persons visit the Island daily, from the opening of the season June 1st, to the close thereof in October ; and on holidays, special occasions and Sundays, the number often exceeds 100,000. It is an interesting diversion, to sit by the water's edge and descant on the incongruous mass that passes by ; the phlegmatic Teuton with "meine frau und kinder alt und jung," the burly Hibernian, out for a lark and determined to have it, the complaisant Frank, the inflexible Briton, and the calculating Yankee ; the Governor, the Senator, the Ambassador ; the simpering maid and stately matron ; the happy benedict and crabbed bachelor ; the cooing lovers and prattling children. Here the elements of human nature do most beautifully compound ; here the old, the young, the fat, the lean, the short, the tall, the dull, the gay, resort, to relieve the tedium of city life, and enjoy the blessings of friend Neptune ; so too, at the hotels during the afternoon concerts, one can lounge upon the balcony, or seated at the music stand listen to the delightful strains of excellent musicians, and view humanity in all its complex forms.

No little inducement at the Island, is the magnitude and variety of the cuisine, anything in the edible line from a sandwich to a banquet, can at all hours be had, and at reasonable prices ; the daintiest tidbit for those of delicate taste, and the most substantial solids for voracious appetites, are always ready and in constant demand ; for the sea air is no common appetizer, hence a visit to the Island and a feast, is one and inseparable. As a dry meal is but an aggravation, the thoughtful ca-

terers provide replete lists of liquid essentials, ranging from the "chatty Widow Clicquot," to the discreet soda water, and among which the "foaming glass of beer," holds no minor place — particularly the foam ;— it has been a mooted question as to the intoxicating qualities of Lager Beer, but this beverage as served in a "Coney Island Glass," appears to be of the temperance order, as we have found no purse sufficiently plethoric, to purchase that quantity necessary to intoxicate ; but agreeable to the old adage that "good goods come in small parcels," we are thankful for the quality if not the quantity that a nickle will purchase.

Though the prices for refreshments are not excessive, yet there are many that seek the pleasures of the Island whose purse will not keep pace with their wants in this direction, that, in the cause of economy, prepare a hamper at home and bring their lunch with them ; and there are those who prefer this picnic way from choice ; for these classes there are ample accommodations in every locality of the Island, places where tables and seats are set aside for this especial purpose, known as "basket places" and where coffee, tea, milk and other drinkables can be obtained ; t'is often a pleasant sight to watch the family group taking their frugal repast, and see the gusto with which the little ones enjoy the good things mamma prepares ; we have often wondered as we have viewed the bounteous spread of these prudent people, wherein their consistency as economists begins.

The conveyances for the transit of passengers between the different parts of the Island are numerous, and being constantly in motion add to the continuous bustle, so noticeable and attractive to the stranger ;

they are of various style and sizes, light and easy of gear, and peculiarly adapted to travel in the sand ; you have your choice of stage, barouche or carryall, and have no excuse for leg weariness, as the fares are moderate and within the means of all ; besides the omnibuses there are the Marine Rail-ways, which will carry you along the Island for five cents.

They that prefer to promenade and linger amid the gayety of the hotels, can do so without discomfiture from the sand, as the areas surrounding the hotels, are planked over making immense platforms, even to the water's edge.

Nowhere else in the world are the facilities for bathing equal to those of the Island ; large commodious structures complete in every accommodation, and conducted in the most proper manner, with all the auxiliaries for sea bathing, are at the service of the public, at moderate rates ; Nature and Art seem to vie with each other to serve the public in this respect ; around and about the bathing places there are constantly congregated large concourses of people enjoying the antics of the frolicing bathers, seats are provided for their comfort, and the fun may be enjoyed without becoming irksome ; it is a common thing on a warm summer's day to see hundreds of men, women and children ,splashing and floundering in the water at one time ; while at night under the rays of the electric lamp, one can form illusions of dolphins and mermaids, nymphs and peris, and fancy themselves in the realms of the Naiads.

The lovers of music—what a cheerless soul it must be with no love of music,—will find delight in the afternoon and evening concerts, given at the grand music

stands, of the principal hotels ; the performers are selected with the greatest care, and the rivalry to secure the best musical talent as general performers and soloists, results in the organization of orchestras of great merit and led as they all are by celebrated virtuosos, they present a repertoire of original and selected pieces, that never fail to gain the plaudits and appreciation of the multitude ; and the most critical Philharmonist seldom find occasion to speak other than praise of these concerts. If perchance there should be any who prefer to listen to music of a less imposing kind, they that admire the twanging of the hurdy-gurdy, or the ding of the hand organ, there are localities where their musical taste can be satiated, where they may drink in, the soul stirring strain of "Nancy Lee," while feasting their eyes upon strange and wonderful things, that a true appreciation of this kind of music, entail.

All portions of the Island abound with novelties for sight-seers horse racing, billiards, ten-pins, museums, minstrelsy, necromancy, acrobatic feats, dancing, etc. and the veritable ancient Punch and Judy, with other shows of that kind, are there to amuse and delight the the children.

Many articles of use, and fancy trinkets are exposed for sale ; several photographic artists, with all the necessary paraphernalia of the trade, furnish you a pleasing souvenir of your visit. A well appointed pharmacy with competent attaches administer to your ailments, concocting, compounding, and prescribing, emulsions, febrifuges, correctives, and mineral waters, as the case may demand ; also choice perfumery and fine toilet notions are here kept.

Removed from the bathing pavilions, as we stroll along the beach, numbers of merry children will be seen wading in the water, their little bare feet kissed, as it were, with the last kiss of the spent breaker, while here and there, clusters of little ones pass happy hours delving in the sand, building and rebuilding frail castles, and constructing other works of infantile fancy; the implements for their work,—a toy shovel and pail—can be bought for a trifle, and are vended upon the beach in great numbers.

In fact nearly every comfort, luxury and amusement for the enjoyment of man, woman or child, can be found at the Island; and although a flying visit may refresh the spirits and lighten the heart, it would require many days to partake of all the pleasures, or see all the sights, its several localities present. Suffice it to say, that no other resort in the world, has so many attractions to meet the public fancy; no city in Europe and none in America, excepting New York and Brooklyn, commands within half an hour's ride, so grand an ocean view, or access to so magnificent a beach, as the Island affords.

The perfect security from insult or obscenity that ladies and children may enjoy, is most remarkable, when we consider the vast number of visitors, and the close proximity to the vices of a great city; in perfect freedom they can roam the entire district and ramble through its labyrinths of pleasure with safety. Ladies or families need not absent themselves from the Island upon apprehensions of this kind, as a proficient police guarantees immunity from pesterers of this order, and the vicious generally.

MANHATTAN BEACH.

Which claims our first attention, lies at the eastern end of the Island, and is patronized by the elite of New York society, who choose to favor Coney Island with their presence. A greater capital is probably here invested—under one corporation—than in any other watering place upon the Atlantic coast. The property of the Manhattan Beach Company embraces the Oriental and Manhattan Beach hotels, the picnic and bathing pavilions, and the Alexandra Fireworks Park.

THE ORIENTAL HOTEL, being that large and beautiful structure furthest east, which is as complete in all its parts as it is possible to build a hotel in this portion of the nineteenth century ; it has 465 rooms, which are furnished in elegant style, and the character of its guests are of the exclusive class ; it is run on the table d'hôte plan and its larder embraces every delicacy of the season ; quiet and refinement are its prevailing characteristics and although it is a most delightful retreat for its guests, while there are so many other points of popular interest on the Island, the general public find little to draw them to its grounds, save its magnitude and the beauty of its surroundings,

THE MANHATTAN BEACH HOTEL, the grounds of which adjoin those of the Oriental to the westward, is the center of attraction for the select thousands that visit this section of the Island daily, and is the especial delight of the opulent and high-toned New Yorker. In its arrangement and management it is well calculated for the entertainment of the public, and the comfort and pleasure of its patrons.

The restaurant department is served a la carte, and it would be superfluous to revert to the excellency thereof; the vast dining room can accommodate 12 00 persons at one time, and the tables during afternoon and evening are always occupied; on the warm and sultry days of midsummer many thousands refresh the inner man at the restaurant and bar; and upon the roomy balcony that runs along the entire facade of the building, the social little coteries to be seen partaking of Manhattan's good cheer,—“otium cum dignitate” as is always the rule here,—would disarrange the equipoise of the most bilious temperament.

The “swells” and “nabobs” of European aristocracy favor Manhattan, and a stray duke, marquis, earl or possibly a prince, may be found hovering around incognito.

THE PICNIC PAVILION, adjacent to the hotel, is for the accommodation of those that bring their luncheon with them; the establishment of this place was a necessity, as at times excursionists of this kind would occupy the hotel balcony, to the exclusion of regular guests.

THE BATHING PAVILION, is as nigh an approach to perfection as the ingenuity of the age can make it, every requisite for the comfort, and every device for the safety of bathers is provided.

THE GRAND MUSIC STAND, where daily concerts are given, is directly in front of Manhattan Hotel; and seats for the accommodation of many hundreds, face the orcheater, and are “free gratis”.

ALEXANDRA FIREWORK'S INCLOSURE, pyrotechnical displays are given here at stated intervals, (for which see general infomation,) that are truly brilliant.

BRIGHTON BEACH,

This famous resort lies contiguous to Manhattan Beach, and partakes of many of the qualities that have given Manhattan so exalted a reputation; somewhat more Cosmopolitan however in its character, there is a free and easy going style, among its patrons, that makes strangers at home, the moment they step upon its domain; it is a favorite trysting place for prominent men of all professions.

THE BRIGHTON BEACH HOTEL: beneath the eaves of this magnificent building, on the broad and commodious balcony, there can be seen daily, groups of distinguished people, discussing important topics and sumptuous dinners, both with equal interest. The broker, the speculator, the inventor, the philosopher, the actor, the sportsman etc. gather here to mingle business with pleasure, and often "enterprises of great pith and moment," are inaugurated. Within its spacious halls, conclaves of politicians are often held, and schemes of great magnitude are modeled and remodeled, that reverberate throughout the entire Nation; within its precincts the Cabinet Minister and the Ward Constable, roam with equal freedom; and the uninitiated that visit the beach, in hope of feasting their eyes upon the magnates of the land, will find it difficult to discern "the t'other from which," so close is the similarity.

Bevies of beautiful ladies grace the promenades and the corridors. The Bill of Fare is an Epicurean Gospel; and Epicurus himself would have solved the problem of his philosophy, had he been permitted to spend a few hours at Brighton Beach.

The name of the Chesterfieldian lessee of the hotel, is a sure guarantee of the cordial reception that the public will receive at Brighton, the present season, which will be the most brilliant, this place has yet known. The "knights of the cue" will find a well appointed billiard saloon, at the western end of the hotel, and well polished alleys where bowlers can bowl.

THE MUSIC STAND, encircled by settees is directly in front of the hotel, where the public are invited to enjoy the afternoon and evening concerts, and the music at Brighton is proverbially incomparable.

THE BATHING PAVILION, across the esplanade has accommodations for a great number of bathers; a refectory, a bar-room, a large platform where we may set and eat our home made lunch, a silk factory, making scarfs and kerchiefs, and a dime museum, where the fat woman and the living skeleton, the giant and the midget abide in contentment.

RACE COURSE. The Brighton Beach Race Course is situated back of the hotel, and during the racing season is well patronized by the votaries of the turf; many exciting contests, between the best horses of the land take place here, whereat the bookmakers drive a flourishing trade; we advise great caution in investment upon favorite horses at these races, as the result is often dubious, and many times the unlooked for happens; nearly every day during the season, there are races at this place, or at Coney Island Race Course, which lies a short distance further east towards Sheepshead Bay.

FIREWORKS. The firework nights at Brighton, call together multitudes, and the display, given openly on the beach, beggars description.

Leaving Brighton, for West Brighton, there are two modes of transit, one by the Elevated R.R., the depot of which is directly east of the Brighton Hotel; the other by the boulevard called Surf Avenue, in stages that ply between these places. It is a pleasant stroll for pedestrians,—the distance is not very great—over the concrete walk to the left of the boulevard, known as the Concourse. On leaving Brighton Beach Hotel, the dismal looking house to the right of the road (Ocean Hotel,) was in other days a popular resort, but it seems to it “the light of other days has faded.” On the left there is a photographers studio, about midway on the right the GRAND CENTRAL HOTEL, marks the junction of the Ocean Park Way and Surf Avenue; on the concourse opposite the parkway, a summer house gives to promenaders a chance to rest; a few rods further on, is the SEA SIDE HOME FOR CHILDREN, a “sanitarium” managed by a committee of benevolent ladies, an asylum by the sea where the afflicted children of the poor may enjoy the same sea air, as the offsprings of wealth.

Here also, is the terminus of the horse railroad from Brooklyn, or what was once the popular Coney Island road. Several hotels cluster around this old spot, and but a short distance back in a clump of trees, stands a relic of the past, the OCEANIC. At the junction of this road and the boulevard, is VANDERVEERS HOTEL and stables, the depot for the B.B. & W.B. stages: and if perchance in winter, when rude Boreas blows his keenest blast, and Jack Frost mantles the earth, we shall find ourselves at the Island, we may know there is shelter, a warm stove and a knife and fork, at Vanderveers: he keeps open all the year round.

WEST BRIGHTON,

Is about a mile from Brighton Beach,—west—and is to the democratic masses, the real Coney Island; distinction of class or person never has nor never will be tolerated here, but in the good old democratic fashion, “you pays your money and you has your choice,” and no matter how fanciful you may be, there is variety enough to choose from. In this “go-as-you-please” district, there are no chilling formalities, obey the laws of decency, and you have more freedom and less restraint than was vouchsafed “Bold Morgan McCarty from Trim,” at a “Donnybrook Fair.”

We no sooner reach West Brighton, than we are bewildered by the multiplicity of inducements offered for our entertainment, both mentally and physically; we hardly know where to begin, and if it is our intention to see every thing, we surely can't tell where and when we will end. Conspicuous is the Observatory towering high towards the sky, and from the top of which, a broad view of sea and land can be had. If you have come to Coney Island for a “high time” and mean to get “elevated,” ascend this tower and from its summit, drink in the beauties of Nature; your spree will be moderate and so will be the expense. The height of this tower is 300 feet above the level of the sea.

Nigh to the observatory will be seen the Great Natural Curiosity, “a live cow stuffed with straw,”—as we once heard a “jokist” call it.—that yields one hundred gallons of ice cold milk per day, and more if necessity demands it; milk pure and sweet, like the pretty dairy maids that serve it to customers at a nickle per glass.

They that choose to ignore the lacteal fluid for something of more pungent taste, will find the dairy flanked on the left by a mill, where sweet cider "fresh from the press," is sold by the glass; while at a pagoda on the right, a glass of "sparkling champagne, on draught," is drawn for a dime; close by, they fizz off soda water at popular prices, for the extremely temperate; lemonade, mead and other temperance beverages, are also vended. Pie, cake and bon-bon merchants, are numerous, and at booths laden with confections, the "sweet tooth" is provided for; under a shed near the observatory, a pan of succulent clams await your order for roasting; and the fried sausage man, is at all times ready with his savory dish.

Here, you try your luck, and may win a doll or lose a dollar, just as your luck may run; that machine like an antiquated air pump in appearance, will tell your pulling strength; and the one beside it your striking force; the man with rueful visage, owns the the blowing machine, such wonderful phenomena in this line has he met, since he came to the Island, that he mourns the incapacity of his machine to test their powers; for ordinary mortals his apparatus is adequate, to the fiercest blast; yon silver haired Mentor, with polished scales and dignified mien, tells your weight to the exact notch, for 5 cts., he gives full weight and a certificate of your avoirdupois,

Would you please the children? then there are swings in which they delight to sway to and fro, or the merry-go-round whirling around to the din of a hand organ; the boys can straddle make-believe horses, and the girls can sit in the carioles and have a jolly ride.

The box like building opposite the swings placarded with grotesque figures, is a museum, filled with animate and inanimate wonders. The camera obscura by the road-side, reflects a condensed view of the surrounding territory. Many other kindred attractions take transient quarters in this versatile place, and the cries of the pop-corn and peanut men, and itinerants of that ilk add to the general hubbub.

THE BRIGHTON PIER & NAVIGATION Co., owns and controls the long pier at this point, which presents so imposing a frontage; the management of this pier, offer allurements of a novel character (see general information.) The ponderous looking building by the easterly side of the pier, is MRS. VANDERVEERS BATHING ESTABLISHMENT, Bar and Restaurant; the conveniences provided for the comfort of bathers, by this lady, and the natural adaptation of the beach, makes it a favorite bathing ground. On the west side of the approach to the pier, is situated MESSRS DOYLE & STUTENBORD'S new large basket pavilion for picnic parties, where such fare as families and excursionists may require, can be obtained; these gentlemen run the old CABLE HOTEL, once the pride of its class, and the first of the "palace hotels" now so plentiful on the Island; this hotel is conducted mainly as a sea side boarding house, yet transient customers are well attended at the bar and restaurant.

Contiguous to Cable's, is the new depot of the PROSPECT PARK & CONEY ISLAND R. R., constructed chiefly for the use of passengers by this route, and certainly they are well cared for, as the appointments are all of a superior order; on the ground floor there is an ele-

gantly furnished ladies parlor, toilet etc., and ample waiting rooms, the second floor is used by the company for office purposes. Adjoining Cable's east is the W.B. depot of the Elevated R.R..

WEST BRIGHTON BEACH HOTEL. On the left of the boulevard, across the broad plaza, is Bauer's hotel, pavilion, restaurant, terrace, billiard saloon, shooting gallery and bath houses. The hotel has 100 well furnished sleeping appartments, the restaurant and pavilion can accommodate many thousands, and in the turrets that adorn the building, there are elegantly furnished rooms where retired parties can escape the throng below ; in the interior of the main building, a female orchester, discourses "sweet music," at the pavilion—encroaching upon the sea,—a military band give day and evening concerts. Bauer's is the popular rendevous of our German citizens, wine lager, switzer kase, bologna and bretzels, are served as gracefully as is the "table d' hote" he prepares ; beyond the pavilion there are ample bathing facilities, and the best voucher for their excellence, is the constant demand for their use. Several noted singing societies have their masquerades here, during the season, when the building, interior and exterior, is most fantastically decorated with bunting, garlands and grotesque figures, and the plaza is illuminated with many hued lamps ; on these gala nights, 20,000 people assemble in and around the hotel, the majority dressed in every conceivable garb, from a king to a monkey ; "tripping the light fantastic toe till day light doth appear," the excitement and tumult of these carnivals, are things never to be forgotten, by those who have participated in these festivities.

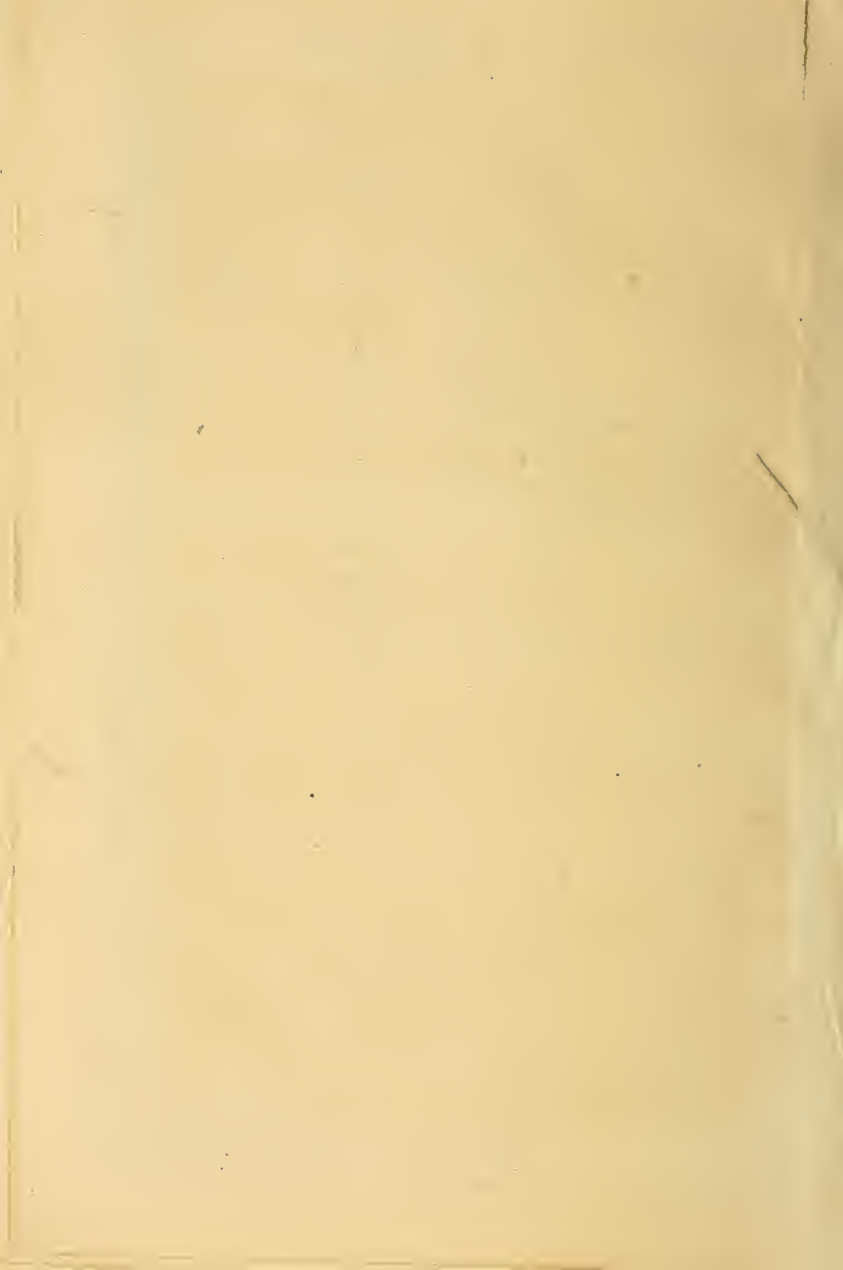
WEST BRIGHTON BEACH HOTEL

WEST BRIGHTON BEACH
HOTEL

WEST BRIGHTON BEACH HOTEL

BAUER'S





BAUER'S CLUB HOUSE, on the opposite side of Surf avenue, is a sort of an addenda to the hotel.

THE IRON PIER. To the east of Bauer's, jutting into the sea for 1,400 feet, by 130 feet in width, is the pier of the Ocean Navigation & Pier Company, established in 1879 as a landing place for visitors by steamboat ; this pier is within itself complete for a day's pleasure ; music, restaurant, bathing and other adjuncts of a summer resort are centered within its precincts, and many remain within its limits, there finding all that an excursionist may desire. The constantly prevailing breeze, that even the heated term cannot subdue, entice passengers by rail to enter and regale themselves, in the invigorating atmosphere.

FELTMAN'S. The large three storied building with the conspicuous corridors that meets our view as we leave the pier, is celebrated as Feltman's dancing pavilion. The second floor is one immense dancing hall, where Terpsichore presides supreme, and the fiddle is never silent, or at least so it appears to the writer's experience ; when we consider the dancing mania of the age, we cease to wonder at the large numbers of gay young people, that seek the mazes of the merry dance, under Feltman's protection ; it is an animated sight to see hundreds of jantily attired lads and lasses, jigging, shuffling, ballancing and pirouetting in the Lancers or whirling and sliding in the waltz ; a daily scene here.

Consistant to Coney Island custom. Feltman feeds, as well as fiddles, which fact will be readily recognized by a glimpse at the several departments, on the first floor ; the mammoth kitchen and victualing house, being particularly noticeable, also the variety show.

Leaving Feltman's temple of variety, to the east, we may wander for a quarter of a mile, through a succession of covered platforms, concert galleries and victualing houses, and make our selections from an "ollapodrida" that would eclipse the make-up of a country fair. Franconia automatons, punch-and-judy, jugglers, tumblers, minstrels, singing, dancing, eating, drinking and games of skill and chance, greet you on every quarter to lighten your spirits and your purse, at the same time.

The gay and giddy, can revel in a thousand pleasurable excitements, and the staid philosopher and stoic, cannot fail to be amused. We do not intend to select for invidious comparison, any from out the many who contribute to the popularity of this district, but we feel we must mention Tilyou's old fashioned clam-bakes, at the sign of the elephants; Sulzer's dancing platform and concert hall; Hausser's 200 bath houses standing in line of battle, ready to receive the charge of as many bathers, and to charge in return 20 cts per head for accommodations; Winter keeps a cool place for summer recreation, at his pavilion. Interspersed here about are numerous places of more modest appearance; but of equal repute.

The circumspect may be surprised at the apparent familiarity of those that consort here, but when they consider that these parties, are in a great measure the sons and daughters of toil out for a holiday, having for the nonce, thrown off the burdensome formalities of every day life, to assume a garb of extreme sociability, the better to enjoy all the occasion affords; they will pass upon their frivolity and levity, as the flow of exuberant spirits, freed from conventional restraint.

Having rambled through the intricacies of this cosmopolitan district, and surfeited on fun and lollipops, let us traverse Surf avenue on the northern side, from Banner's Club House, to Shaefer's, and we will have canvassed West Brighton pretty thoroughly. A series of hotels compete with each other, for recognition; the large rotunda like building, the JUMBO, speaks for itself through its lettered front; in the rear of which, a long shed like structure, is the real place for the "genuine Rhode Island Clam Bake;" and the aroma from this delectable compound, will arouse the most sluggish appetite. The spacious iron and glass structure, is known as the SEA BEACH PALACE HOTEL, a relic of the Centennial Exhibition, was transplanted from Philadelphia, to its present position as a fitting attribute to the Island. Its saloons are capacious and pleasant, and supplemented by a neat little cottage, where you can allay your thirst in seclusion; next comes the CLARENDON SHEDS, where the horses may rest, while the men frolic; the adjoining buildings are COHEN's and the depot of GUNTHER's pioneer steam railroad; the trim looking house called the SEA VIEW HOTEL, is head-quarters for the "true blue from Jersey."

Several minor hotels and taverns, lie between this point and West End, where cherry faced bonifaces, will receive you with open hospitality; and administer to your wants with as much care, as their more showy neighbors.

Taking it all for all, West Brighton is a jolly place and they that would enjoy its manifold pleasures, must lay aside restraint, smile at peccadillos, and eat, drink, and be merry.

WEST END,

Embraces all that portion of the Island from West Brighton, to the extreme western end, familiar as Norton's Point. The natural beauties of this locality, are superior to any other part of the Island; at the point an extended view can be had; Princess Bay, Staten Island, the Narrows, forts Hamilton and Wadsworth, the beautiful shores of Gravesend Bay, with the village of Bath on its banks, the Jersey Highlands and Sandy Hook, in the distance. Capital has not invaded this district in the same ratio as it has the eastern division, hence, its present aspect partakes more of the "Old Coney Island" before spoken of. Several quaint old fashioned hotels, exist in their pristine glory: and there are many Gothamites who so fondly cling to "auld lang syne" that no inducement could swerve their attachment to these ancient sands.

Scattered over West End there are a number of small enclosures and sheds, "ycleped pavilions" furnishing light refectations and bathing facilities, where parties that wish to avoid the commotion, betake themselves.


The WINDSOR, ROSSMORE and WEST END UNION, hotels stand close by the Windsor depot, of the C.I.P.R.R.; towards W.B.,—RAVENHALL's, KATENS, RUSHER's and STRATHMORE, are prominent; towards the point, POINT COMFORT HOUSE, has stood the tempest many years, and still stands to tempt, the thirsty and hungry, with its well stocked cupboards. BUCKHART's fishing grounds, an isolated dock some 200 feet off shore, where you may fish until tired for 25 cts, and the old hotel and dock at the point, completes the ensemble of West End.

OCEAN PARK WAY.

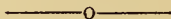
We refer to this favorite drive of the Brooklynite, for the information of those that wish to go this way. This wide and splendid thoroughfare, extends from Prospect Park to Surf avenue, a distance of about 4 miles ; it is reached by the several routes to Prospect Park, viz. : from the Eastern District, through Bedford avenue to Sacket Street Boulevard, thence to Prospect Park Plaza, through the park to the Park Way : from the Western District, through Fulton or Atlantic avenues to Flatbush avenue, thence to plaza and through the park as above. Along this route there are several well kept road houses, at the junction with Surf avenue, stabling accommodations with proper care for beasts will be found. If on reaching the Island, it is your intention to visit Brighton Beach, take Surf avenue to the left, if West Brighton or West End, go to the right : there are horse sheds at both places.

On summer afternoons, especially during the racing season this road is thronged with the princely equipages of the rich, and the high-flyers of turfmen ; the hackmen claim a place in the rolling pageant, and their claims are allowed.

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 N.B.. It will be observed that in compiling our little volume, we have designated the several localities as lying east and west of each other ; to make this clearer to our readers, let them remember that when they face the ocean, that portion of the Island lying to their right is west, and that to the left is east.

GENERAL INFORMATION,
SEASON OF 1883.



MUSIC—Manhattan, Grand Orchestre, Patrick Sarsfield Gilmore conductor, afternoon and evening concerts, Sundays sacred music. At the Oriental, a recherche programme arranged for string instruments, daily.


Brighton, Brend & Ballenberg's Cincinnati Orchestra, (full reed band,) Michael Brend conductor and composer, soloists, Herman Bellstedt cornet, Joseph White trombone, Carl Wehner flute; Carl Shutt clarinet: special feature, Request Programme, Tuesday Brooklyn, Thursday New York, on these days, any person is invited to send a request to the leader to play a certain air, from these requests the programme will be made up.


West Brighton,—Bauer's, a female orchestre in the main building, Madam Roller conductress, soloists, violin Marie Roller, xylophone Virginia Kronauer, cornet William Rickel; at the pavilion stand, incidental programme by military band.

Feltman's, Charles Metzger's Band, dancing music.

Old Iron Pier, continuous music by full band.

Brighton Pier, orchestral music in connection with other entertainments.

 Afternoon concerts from 4 to 6 P. M., evening concerts from 8 to 10 P. M.

 At Manhattan, Brighton and Bauer's the concerts are free to the public.

Price of admission to Old Iron Pier, including music 10 cts..

BATHING.—At the several pavilions the charges for bathing, including room and bathing suits, 25 cts. ; at the western end of the Island, there are old fashioned bathing houses where the charge is 20 cts.. Parties bathing should always leave their valuables at the office, where they will receive check for the same ; this precaution is not to be taken solely on account of theft, but in dressing etc., articles may fall from the pockets through the perforated floors, which would put them to considerable trouble to recover. The bathing grounds are well guarded by ropes, and boats patrolling the shore ; disaster comes only to those, who, are over venturesome, and desirous of showing their exploits as swimmers : keep within the prescribed limits, and there is no danger. Warm salt water baths are luxuries to be had at the principal bathing establishments.

CONVEYANCES.—Marine Railway from Manhattan to Brighton fare 5 cts..

Elevated Railway from Brighton to West Brighton fare 3 cts..

Stages from Brighton to West Brighton fare 5 cts..

Carriages for special trips, to Nortons Point etc., can be engaged at reasonable rates, according to length of trip, and size of party ; make your bargain specifically before starting, and avoid disagreement at end of trip.

ENTERTAINMENTS.—New Iron Pier, variety theatre ; Donaldson manager, matinees and evening performances daily ; admission 25 cts..

Feltman's, variety show admission 10 cts.,

Feltman's dancing hall, admission for gentlemen 25 cts., ladies 5 cts..

Dancing at open pavilions free.

American Institute Fair. at Sea Beach Palace, free.

Race Course at Brighton. general admission 50 cts., grand stand \$ 1.00, ladies 50 cts..

Observatory. West Brighton, adults 10 cts., children 5 cts.. Sundays and holidays, adults 15 children 10 cts..

Museum at Brighton, adults 15 cts., children 10 cts., opera chairs 5 cts extra.

Museum at West Brighton, 10 cts..

Sea Side Aquarium 10 cts..

Swings, merry-go-rounds and other light amusements from 5 to 10 cts..

Around the world in 20 minutes 10 cts.

REFRESHMENTS—we append the following list of prices to show that charges at Coney Island are not exorbitant.

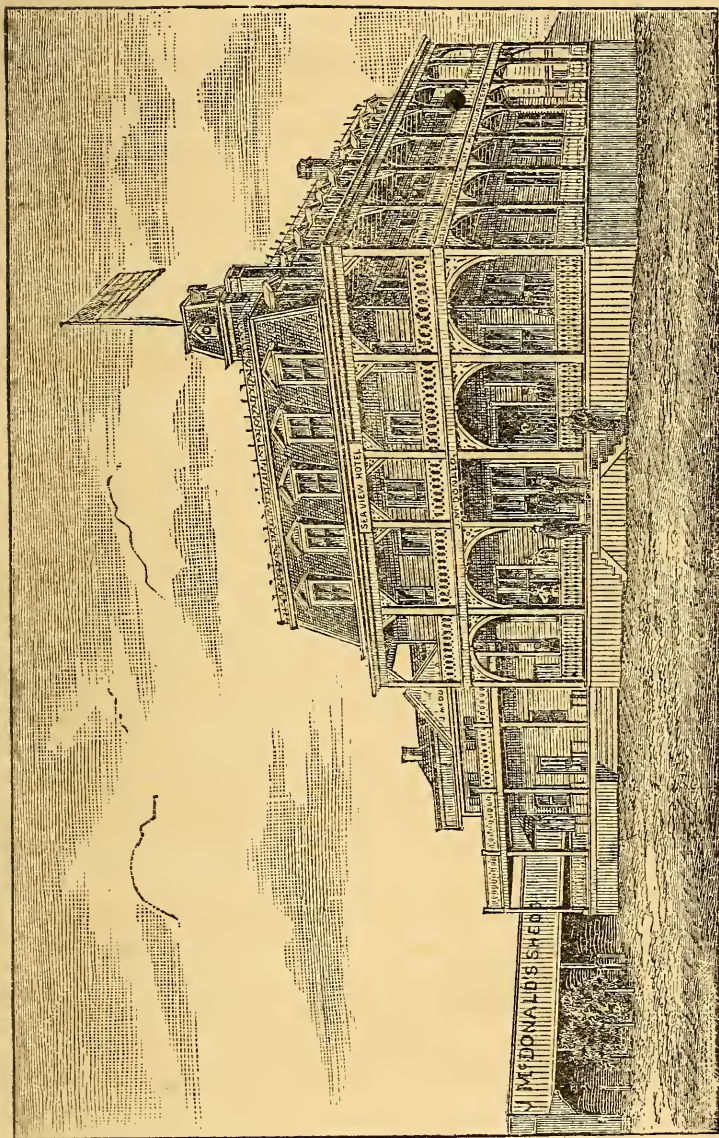
Chowder 20 & 25 cts., fish 20 to 40 cts., full dinner 50 cts and upwards. Rhode Island Clam Bake 50 cts., table d'hote Bauer's (inside) \$ 1.00 (outside) 50 cts., Feltmans (without wine) 60 cts. ; at basket pavilions, tea & coffee 10 cts., pie, sandwiches etc. 10 cts. ; at some of the minor places, pie sandwiches etc. 5 cts. The universal price for lager, (5 cts.) predominates wine, liquors and segars, are sold at usual prices.

At Brighton and Manhattan hotels, prices are consistent, with hotels of their class throughout the country, and are in no way excessive. The "menu" is to extensive to particularize.

MISCELLANEOUS,—Telegraph stations, at Brighton and Manhattan hotels, and at depot of the Prospect Park and Coney Island Railroad.

Transient board and Rooms, at Bauer's Feltman's and other hotels, at West Brighton and West End.

Family board at McDonald's Sea View House, this





hotel is patronized by the first families of Jersey City ; and its keep is consonant with its tidy and clean external appearance.

Regular board from 15 to 25 dollars per week.

Terms at Brighton and Manhattan, compare more than favorable with hotels of their class.

A peep at the kitchen of the Brighton Beach hotel is worth a trip to the Island, the system and cleanliness, is most remarkable.

The Coney Island Jockey Club, have rooms at Manhattan hotel.

The Oxford Club, have rooms at Brighton hotel.

The Coney Island Sun contains all news and gossip of the Island,—read it.

The extreme eastern end is called Point Breeze.

Pharmacy, at Brighton and West Brighton.

Prolong your visit until evening ; under the myriads of gas jets, and electric lights, the Island presents a brilliant spectacle.

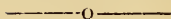
Fireworks at Manhattan, Brighton and Bauer's periodically, at Alexandra enclosure,—Manhattan,—admission 25 cts, at Brighton hotel on the open beach, and at Bauer's pavilion. free : for nights of these displays* see advertisement or adenda.*

Sacred music at Sunday concerts, by Brend & Balenberg's and Gilmore's Bands.

Twenty minutes bathing, advised for those that bathe in the ocean but occasionally, and always before eating.

It is said—on good authority— that 5,000,000 adults and nearly as many children, visited the Island last season ; this being a fact, it is remarkable that no serious accidents happen at Coney Island.

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RAILROADS



No other place in the world of its size, has such a thorough and extensive a railroad system, as Coney Island : every portion of the Island can be reached every hour of the day, with safety and in comfort. The time tables of the roads will give the exact hour of departure of the trains from their several depots, but in a concise way we shall give such general information as we think may be useful to the public.

MANHATTAN BEACH R.R.

By this route you can leave New York hourly, from 10 A.M. to 7. P.M. : via 34th. st. ferry ; James slip, & 7th. st. E.R. $\frac{1}{2}$ hour earlier Leave Manhattan to return, hourly, from 11.10 A.M. to 8.10 P.M., Excursion tickets including ferry, 50 cts..

Via Bay Ridge by steamer D. R. Martin, foot of Whitehall st., hourly, from 9.10 A.M. to 7.10 P.M.,


Returning, leave Manhattan Beach, 10.15 A.M. to 8.15 P.M.. Excursion tickets, including elevated railroad fare, 60 cts., good for 34th. st ferry.

From Brooklyn, Flatbush ave. depot, trains leave hourly from 10 10 A. M. to 7.10 P. M. stopping at Nosstrand, Franklin, Troy and Utica ave's. Returning leave Manhattan hourly from 11 A. M. to 8 P. M..

Greenpoint, trains leave hourly from 10 10 A. M. to 7.10 P. M. Returning leave Manhattan hourly from 11.10 A. M. to 8. 10 P.M. stopping at Humboldt,

Grand and Ridgewood stations. . . . Excursion tickets
25 cts., children 15 cts..

BROOKLYN. FLATBUSH & CONEY ISLAND RAILWAY.

 This route runs direct to Brighton Beach Hotel.

Trains leave the Long Island railroad depot, every 30 minutes, from 9.15 A. M. to 10.15 P. M.. . . Leave Bedford every 30 minutes, from 9.20 A. M. to 10.04 P. M.. . . Returning, leave Brighton every 15 minutes.

Flatbush av. depot is reached by Atlantic, Fifth and Flatbush av. cars from W. D. ferries. ; Bedford by Bergen st. cars from Hamilton ferry, and by Franklin av. cars, from Grand st. ferry E. D.. . . Excursion tickets 45 cts., single trip 25 cts..

PROSPECT PARK & CONEY ISLAND RAILROAD.

Brooklyn depot, Ninth av. & Twentieth st. ; trains leave every 30 minutes from 9 A. M. to 1 P. M., and every 20 minutes until 9.30 P. M. . . . Returning, leave West Brighton, the same, until 10 P. M.. . . Park, Vanderbilt, Ninth, Hamilton avs. and Jay st. cars run direct to the depot. . . . Excursion tickets 25 cts. children 15 including admission to New Iron Pier.

NEW YORK & SEA BEACH R.R.,

To West Brighton hourly, from 9 A. M. to 7 P. M. from foot of 23rd. st. N. R., & from Rector st. 20 minutes later ; by Sylvan Dell, Stream & Grove, returning hourly until 8.30 P. M.. . . Excursion tickets 40 cts.


BROOKLYN, BATH & CONEY ISLAND RAILROAD.

Depot near main entrance Greenwood Cemetery.

Trains leave every 50 minutes, from 8.10 A. M. until 12 M.; and half hourly, from 1 to 9.20 P. M. reached by Greenwood cars. Excursion tickets 25 cts.

CONEY ISLAND HORSE RAILROAD.

Runs half hourly from 9th. av. and 15th st.,
Excursion tickets, 20 cts. single trip 13 cts..

 N. B. Excursion tickets from Bedford 35 cts. and from Prospect Park 30 cts., by B'klyn Flatbush & C.I. Railway.

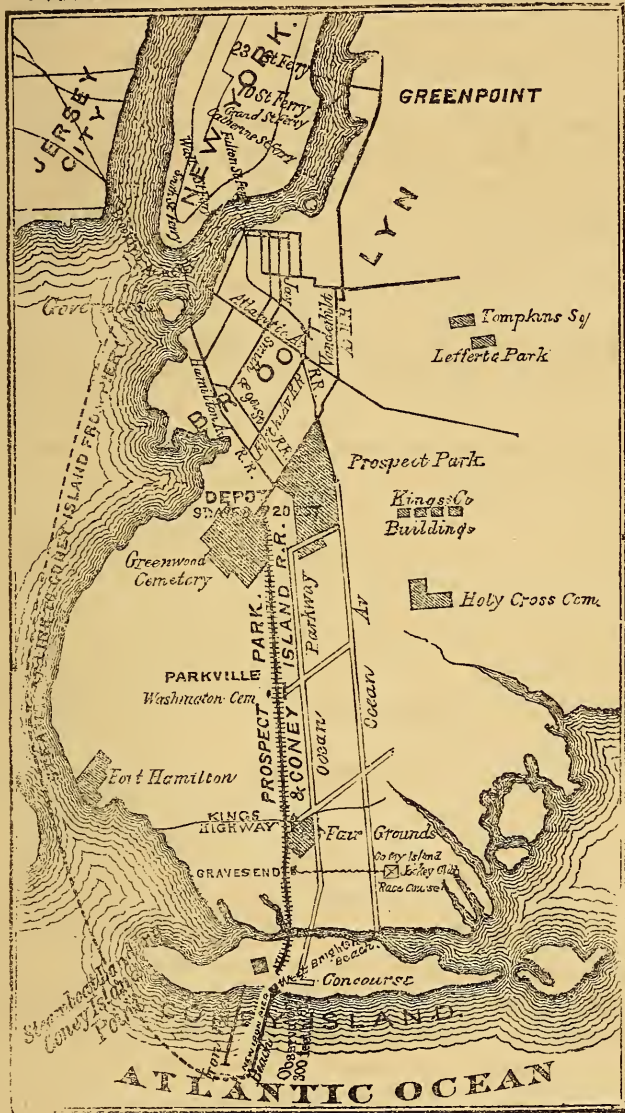
There are earlier morning trains by all the above routes, also extra trains when travel demands the same, On Sundays, holidays and during the rush season, the companies run late trains notice of which will be given at their Island depots. It is a rule to run sufficient trains to carry all patrons home comfortably.

 STEAMBOATS.

Iron Steamboat Company fleet of steamers, Cygnus, Cetes, Perseus, Taurus, Cepheus & Pegasus; leave pier 1 N. R. for the Island hourly, landing at the Iron piers alternately. Excursion tickets 50 cts..

These boats are all new, and well adapted for the safety and comfort of passengers; refreshments furnished on board; and the sail is delightful.

PROSPECT PARK & CONEY ISLAND R.R.



DIRECTION FROM THE CITIES.

—NOTE.—

While at the Island there may be many things connected with our visit we would wish to remember, and as memory is oft-times treacherous, convenience to jot them down for future reference, may be serviceable; hence, we supplement our Guide with memoranda sheets, believing the same will be useful.

“Multum in parvo.”

ALBERT'S
CONEY
ISLAND
GUIDE.

—OFFICE ON—

SURF AVENUE, opposite the
 “SEA VIEW HOUSE,”
 WEST BRIGHTON, CONEY ISLAND.

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MEMORANDA.

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CONEY ISLAND,

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MEMORANDA.

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CONEY ISLAND,

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J. McDONALD'S

Sea View Hotel,

Coney Island.

Fersey City Head-Quarters,

KNOWN AS THE FAMILY HOUSE!

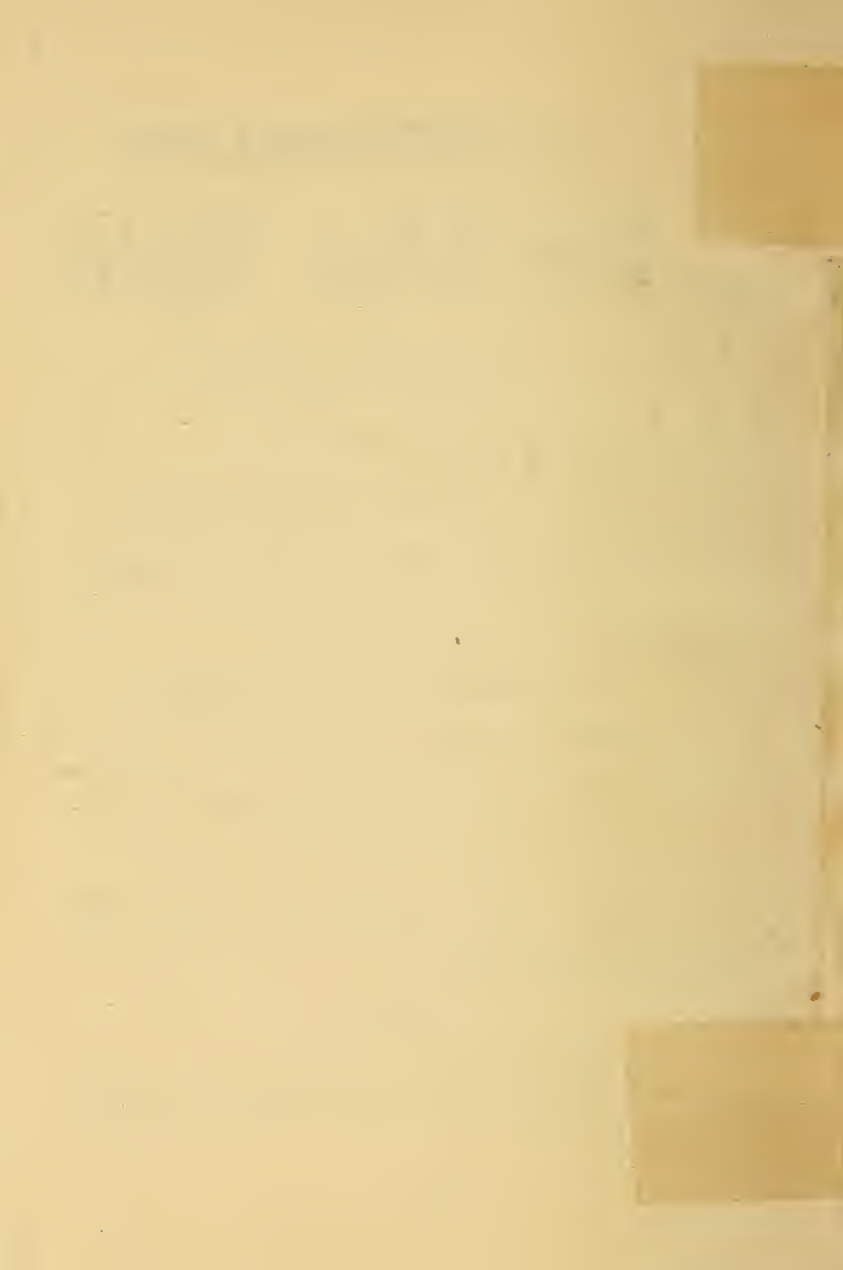
Can Accommodate 90 Boarders.

First-class Dinners will be served for \$1.

Meals at all hours of the day, with best
Liquors, Wines and Segars.

N. B.—Persons visiting the Beach and
wishing to enjoy a quiet time, should spend
it at McDonald's.

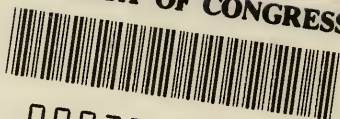
Coney Island Guide.—"It may well be called
the Sea View Hotel, as it has the best view
on the Island."



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